

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TODD BECKER,

Defendant.

No. CR 06-3022-MWB

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO THE JURY**

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## **VERDICT FORM**

## INSTRUCTION NO. 1 - INTRODUCTION

Members of the jury, I am giving you these Instructions to help you better understand the trial and your role in it and to instruct you on the law that you must apply in this case. Consider these instructions, together with all written and oral instructions given to you during or at the end of the trial, and apply them as a whole to the facts of the case. In considering these instructions, the order in which they are given is not important.

As I explained during jury selection, in an Indictment, a Grand Jury charges defendant Todd Becker with the following offenses: **Count 1** charges him with conspiracy to distribute actual (pure) methamphetamine and a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school; and **Count 2** charges him with possessing, with intent to distribute, a mixture or substance containing actual (pure) methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school. As I also explained during jury selection, an Indictment is simply an accusation. It is not evidence of anything. The defendant has pled not guilty to the crimes charged against him, and he is presumed to be innocent of each offense unless and until the prosecution proves his guilt on that offense beyond a reasonable doubt.

Your duty is to decide from the evidence whether the defendant is not guilty or guilty of each charge against him. You will find the facts from the evidence. You are the sole judges of the facts, but you must follow the law as stated in these instructions, whether you agree with it or not.

Do not allow sympathy or prejudice to influence you. The law demands of you a just verdict, based solely on the evidence, your common sense, and the law as stated in these instructions. Do not take anything that I have done during jury selection or that I may say or do during the trial as indicating what I think of the evidence or what I think your verdict should be. Similarly, do not conclude from any ruling or other comment that I have made or may make that I have any opinions on how you should decide the case.

Please remember that only defendant Todd Becker, not anyone else, is on trial here. Also, remember that this defendant is on trial *only* for the offenses charged against him in the Indictment, not for anything else.

The defendant is entitled to have the evidence on each charge against him considered separately. *Therefore, you must return a separate, unanimous verdict on each offense charged against the defendant.*

## INSTRUCTION NO. 2 - PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Before I turn to specific instructions on the offenses charged in this case, I must explain some preliminary matters.

### *“Elements”*

The offenses charged in this case each consist of “elements,” which the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt against the defendant in order to convict him of that offense. I will summarize in the following instructions the elements of the offenses with which the defendant is charged.

### *Timing*

The Indictment alleges that the offenses charged were committed “between about” two dates or “on or about” a specific date. The prosecution does not have to prove with certainty the exact date of an offense charged. It is sufficient if the evidence establishes that an offense occurred within a reasonable time of the date or time period alleged for that offense in the Indictment.

### *Controlled substances*

In these instructions, when I refer to a “controlled substance,” I mean any drug or narcotic that is regulated by federal law. The offenses charged in this case allegedly involved either or both of the following “controlled substance”: **“actual (pure) methamphetamine”** and “a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine,” which I will call simply **“a methamphetamine mixture.”** “Actual (pure) methamphetamine” is methamphetamine itself—that is, either by itself or contained in a mixture or substance. A “methamphetamine

mixture” is a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of “actual (pure) methamphetamine.” You may be asked to determine the quantity of “a methamphetamine mixture” or the quantity of “actual (pure) methamphetamine” contained in “a methamphetamine mixture,” as explained more fully in an Instruction on “quantity of controlled substances.”

### ***“Intent” and “Knowledge”***

The elements of the charged offenses may require proof of what the defendant “intended” or “knew.” Where what the defendant “intended” or “knew” is an element of an offense, the defendant’s “intent” or “knowledge” must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. “Intent” and “knowledge” are mental states. It is seldom, if ever, possible to determine directly the operations of the human mind. Nevertheless, “intent” and “knowledge” may be proved like anything else, from reasonable inferences and deductions drawn from the facts proved by the evidence.

An act was done “knowingly” if the defendant was aware of the act and did not act through ignorance, mistake, or accident. The prosecution is not required to prove that the defendant knew that his acts or omissions were unlawful. An act was done “intentionally” if the defendant did it voluntarily, without coercion, and not because of ignorance, mistake, accident, or inadvertence.

### ***“Possession,” “Distribution,” and “Delivery”***

Some of the offenses charged in this case allegedly involved “distributing,” “conspiring to distribute,” or “possessing with intent to distribute” a controlled substance. “Distribution,” in turn, involves “delivery” or transfer of “possession.”

The following definitions of “possession,” “distribution,” and “delivery” apply in these instructions:

The law recognizes several kinds of “possession.” A person who knowingly had direct physical control over an item, at a given time, was then in “actual possession” of it. A person who, although not in actual possession, had both the power and the intention at a given time to exercise control over an item, either directly or through another person or persons, was then in “constructive possession” of it. If one person alone had actual or constructive possession of an item, possession was “sole.” If two or more persons shared actual or constructive possession of an item, possession was “joint.” Whenever the word “possession” is used in these instructions, it includes “actual” as well as “constructive” possession and also “sole” as well as “joint” possession.

The term “distribute” means to deliver a controlled substance to the actual or constructive possession of another person. The term “deliver” means the actual, constructive, or attempted transfer of a controlled substance to the actual or constructive possession of another person. It is not necessary that money or anything of value changed hands for you to find that there was a “distribution” of a controlled substance, a “conspiracy to distribute” a controlled substance, or an “intent to distribute” a controlled substance. The law prohibits “possessing with intent to distribute,” “distributing,” and “conspiring to distribute” a controlled substance; the prosecution does not have to prove that there was or was intended to be a “sale” of a controlled substance to prove that the controlled substance was

“distributed” or “possessed with intent to distribute” or that there was a “conspiracy to distribute” the controlled substance.

\* \* \*

I will now give you more specific instructions about the offenses charged in the Indictment.



**INSTRUCTION NO. 3 - COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY  
TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE NEAR A SCHOOL**

**Count 1** of the Indictment charges that, between about 2004 and continuing until January 3, 2006, defendant Becker knowingly conspired with other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit either or both of the following offenses: (1) distribution of 5 grams or more of actual (pure) methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school; and (2) distribution of 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school. The Indictment charges that the school in question was Sheffield Elementary School at 504 Park Street in Sheffield, Iowa. Defendant Becker denies that he committed this “conspiracy” offense.

For you to find the defendant guilty of this “conspiracy” offense, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt *all* of the following essential elements against him:

***One, between 2004 and January 3, 2006, two or more persons reached an agreement or came to an understanding to commit either or both of the offenses identified as objectives of the conspiracy.***

The prosecution must prove that the defendant reached an agreement or understanding with at least one other person. The other person or persons do not have to be defendants, or named in the Indictment, or otherwise charged with a crime. There is no requirement that any other conspirators be named as long as you find beyond a

reasonable doubt that there was at least one other co-conspirator besides the defendant.

The “agreement or understanding” need not have been an express or formal agreement, or have been in writing, or have covered all the details of how it was to be carried out. Also, the members need not have directly stated between themselves the details or purpose of the scheme. In determining whether the alleged agreement existed, you may consider the actions and statements of all of the alleged participants, whether they are charged as defendants or not. The agreement may be inferred from all of the circumstances and the conduct of the alleged participants.

The Indictment alleges that the conspirators agreed to commit either or both of the following offenses or “objectives”: distributing actual (pure) methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school, and distributing a methamphetamine mixture within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school. To assist you in determining whether there was an agreement to commit an offense identified as an objective of the conspiracy, you should consider the elements of that offense. The elements of ***“distributing a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school”*** are the following: (1) on or about the date alleged, a person intentionally distributed a controlled substance to another; (2) at the time of the distribution, the person knew that what he or she was distributing was a controlled substance; and (3) the distribution took place within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school. The Indictment identifies the school in question as Sheffield Elementary School at 504 Park Street in Sheffield, Iowa. Therefore, the prosecution must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the co-conspirators agreed that the

location at which the controlled substance or controlled substances in question would be distributed would be within 1,000 feet of this school. The co-conspirators need not have known that the location of the distribution was within 1,000 feet of the school.

Keep in mind, however, that to prove the “conspiracy” offense, the prosecution must prove that there was an *agreement* to commit either or both of the objectives alleged. The prosecution is *not* required to prove that any objective *was actually committed*. In other words, the question is whether the defendant *agreed* to distribute actual (pure) methamphetamine and/or a methamphetamine mixture within 1,000 feet of a school, not whether that defendant or someone else *actually committed* any such “distributing” offense.

If there was no agreement, there was no conspiracy. Similarly, if you find that there was an agreement, but you find that the defendant did not join in that agreement, or did not know the purpose of the agreement, then you cannot find the defendant guilty of the “conspiracy” charge.

**Two, the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement or understanding, either at the time it was first reached or at some later time while it was still in effect.**

You should understand that evidence that a person was merely present at the scene of an event, or merely acted in the same way as others, or merely associated with others does not prove that the person joined in an agreement or understanding. A person who had no knowledge of a conspiracy, but who happened to act in a way that advanced some purpose of one, did not thereby become a member. Similarly, the defendant’s mere

knowledge of the existence of a conspiracy, or mere knowledge that an objective of the conspiracy was being contemplated or attempted, is not enough to prove that the defendant joined in the conspiracy; rather, the prosecution must establish that there was some degree of knowing involvement and cooperation by the defendant.

On the other hand, a person may have joined in an agreement or understanding, as required by this element, without knowing all the details of the agreement or understanding, and without knowing who all the other members were. Further, it is not necessary that a person agreed to play any particular part in carrying out the agreement or understanding. A person may have become a member of a conspiracy even if that person agreed to play only a minor part in the conspiracy, as long as that person had an understanding of the unlawful nature of the plan and voluntarily and intentionally joined in it.

In deciding whether the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement, you must consider only evidence of his own actions and statements. You may not consider actions and pretrial statements of others, except to the extent that pretrial statements of others describe something that the defendant said or did.

***Three, at the time that the defendant joined in the agreement or understanding, he knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.***

The defendant must have known of the existence and purpose of the conspiracy. Without such knowledge, he cannot be guilty of conspiracy, even if his acts furthered the conspiracy. You may not find that the defendant knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding if you find that he was simply careless. A showing of negligence, mistake, or carelessness is not

sufficient to support a finding that the defendant knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.

If the prosecution fails to prove these elements beyond a reasonable doubt as to defendant Becker, then you must find him not guilty of the “conspiracy” offense charged in **Count 1** of the Indictment.

In addition, if you find the defendant guilty of this “conspiracy” offense, then you must also determine beyond a reasonable doubt the quantity of any actual (pure) methamphetamine and/or methamphetamine mixture actually involved in the conspiracy for which he can be held responsible, as explained in Instruction No. 5.

**INSTRUCTION NO. 4 - COUNT 2: POSSESSION  
WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

**Count 2** of the Indictment charges that, on or about January 3, 2006, defendant Becker knowingly and intentionally possessed, with intent to distribute, a mixture or substance that contained five grams or more of actual (pure) methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school. Again, the Grand Jury charges that the school in question was Sheffield Elementary School at 504 Park Street in Sheffield, Iowa. Defendant Becker denies he committed this “possession with intent to distribute” offense.

For you to find the defendant guilty of this offense, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt *all* of the following essential elements:

***One, on or about January 3, 2006, the defendant possessed a methamphetamine mixture.***

“Possession” was defined for you in Instruction No. 2. A “methamphetamine mixture” was also defined for you in Instruction No. 2. You must determine whether or not the substance in the defendant’s possession was, in fact, “a methamphetamine mixture.”

***Two, the defendant knew that he was, or intended to be, in possession of a controlled substance.***

“Knowledge” and “intent” were defined for you in Instruction No. 2. Additionally, the defendant need not have known what the controlled substance was, if the defendant knew that he had possession of some controlled substance.

***Three, the defendant intended to distribute some or all of the controlled substance to another person.***

Again, “intent” and “distribution” were defined for you in Instruction No. 2. In addition, you may, but are not required to, infer an “intent to distribute” from the following evidence: drug purity, suggesting that the drugs were intended to be “cut” or diluted before distribution, if the evidence shows that the defendant was aware of such purity; the presence of firearms, cash, packaging material, or other distribution paraphernalia; and possession of a large quantity of methamphetamine mixture in excess of what an individual user would consume.

***Four, the defendant possessed the methamphetamine mixture within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising Sheffield Elementary School, located at 504 Park Street in Sheffield, Iowa.***

A “school” is defined for purposes of this offense as the real property comprising a public or private elementary school. School does not have to be in session nor do children need to be near or around the school at the time of the offense for the property to be a “school.” You must decide whether or not Sheffield Elementary School, located at 504 Park Street in Sheffield, Iowa, fits this definition of a “school.”

You must also decide whether the location at which the possession with intent to distribute took place was within 1,000 feet of this “school.” The 1,000 foot zone can be measured in a straight line from the “school,” without regard to actual pedestrian travel routes.

The prosecution does not have to prove that the defendant knew or intended that the possession or

distribution of the methamphetamine mixture would take place within 1,000 feet of a “school.” However, the prosecution must prove that the location at which the possession with intent to distribute took place was within 1,000 feet of the “school.”

If the prosecution fails to prove these elements beyond a reasonable doubt as to defendant Becker, then you must find him not guilty of this “possession with intent to distribute” offense.

In addition, if you find the defendant guilty of this “possession with intent to distribute” offense, then you must also determine beyond a reasonable doubt the quantity of any actual (pure) methamphetamine in the methamphetamine mixture actually involved in this offense for which that defendant can be held responsible, as explained in Instruction No. 5.



## INSTRUCTION NO. 5 - QUANTITY OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

If you find the defendant guilty of a charged offense, then you must also determine beyond a reasonable doubt the quantity of any actual (pure) methamphetamine or methamphetamine mixture actually involved in that offense for which the defendant can be held responsible. Although the Indictment charges that a specific quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine or methamphetamine mixture was involved in each offense, the prosecution does not have to prove that an offense involved the amount or quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine or methamphetamine mixture alleged in the Indictment. However, *if* you find the defendant guilty of a charged offense, *then* you must determine the following matters *beyond a reasonable doubt*: (1) whether that offense actually involved the controlled substance or controlled substances charged in that count; and (2) the *total quantity*, in grams, of the controlled substance involved in that offense for which the defendant can be held responsible. In making the required determinations, you may consider all of the evidence in the case that may aid in the determination of these issues.

A defendant guilty of *conspiracy*, as charged in **Count 1** of the Indictment, is responsible for the quantities of any actual (pure) methamphetamine or methamphetamine mixture that he actually distributed or agreed to distribute. Such a defendant is also responsible for those quantities of any actual (pure) methamphetamine or methamphetamine mixture that fellow conspirators distributed

or agreed to distribute, if you find that the defendant could have reasonably foreseen, at the time that he joined the conspiracy or while the conspiracy lasted, that those prohibited acts were a necessary or natural consequence of the conspiracy. Controlled substances acquired for personal use should be included when determining the drug quantity for a “conspiracy” offense.

For **Count 2**, you must determine the quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine contained in the methamphetamine mixture that the defendant possessed with intent to distribute. A defendant guilty of *possession with intent to distribute*, as charged in **Count 2** of the Indictment, is responsible for quantities of the controlled substance in question that he possessed with intent to distribute, as “possession” is explained in Instruction No. 2, and “intent to distribute” is explained in Instruction No. 4, in the explanation to element *two* on page 13.

If you find the defendant guilty of a charged offense, then you must determine beyond a reasonable doubt the *total quantity*, in *grams*, of any controlled substance involved in that offense for which you find that the defendant can be held responsible. You must then indicate in the Verdict Form the *range* within which that *total quantity* falls.

Thus, if you find the defendant guilty of the “conspiracy” charge in **Count 1**, and that the offense involved actual (pure) methamphetamine, then you must determine beyond a reasonable doubt whether the defendant can be held responsible for 5 grams or more, or less than 5 grams of actual (pure) methamphetamine. If you find the defendant guilty of the “conspiracy” charge in **Count 1**, and that the offense involved a methamphetamine mixture, then you must determine beyond a

reasonable doubt whether the defendant can be held responsible for 500 grams or more, 50 grams or more but less than 500 grams, or less than 50 grams of methamphetamine mixture.

If you find the defendant guilty of the “possession with intent to distribute” charge in **Count 2**, then you must determine the quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine contained in the methamphetamine mixture that the defendant possessed with intent to distribute. You must then determine beyond a reasonable doubt whether the defendant can be held responsible for 5 grams or more, or less than 5 grams of actual (pure) methamphetamine.

You may find more or less than the charged quantity of any controlled substance for any offense, but you must find that the quantity you indicate in the Verdict Form has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt as the quantity for which the defendant can be held responsible on the offense in question.

In making your determination of quantity as required, it may be helpful to remember that one pound is approximately equal to 453.6 grams, and that one ounce is approximately equal to 28.34 grams.

## **INSTRUCTION NO. 6 - PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE AND BURDEN OF PROOF**

The defendant is presumed innocent and, therefore, not guilty. This presumption of innocence requires you to put aside all suspicion that might arise from the defendant's arrest or charge or the fact that he is here in court. The presumption of innocence remains with the defendant throughout the trial. That presumption alone is sufficient to find him not guilty. The presumption of innocence may be overcome as to a particular charge against the defendant only if the prosecution proves, beyond a reasonable doubt, *all* of the elements of that offense against the defendant.

The burden is always upon the prosecution to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. This burden never shifts to the defendant to prove his innocence. Therefore, the law never imposes upon a defendant in a criminal case the burden or duty of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence. A defendant is not even obligated to produce any evidence by cross-examining the witnesses who are called to testify by the prosecution. Similarly, if the defendant does not testify, you must not consider that fact in any way, or even discuss it, in arriving at your verdict.

Unless the prosecution proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant has committed each and every element of an offense charged against him, you must find him not guilty of that offense.

## **INSTRUCTION NO. 7 - REASONABLE DOUBT**

I have previously instructed you that, for you to find the defendant guilty of a charged offense, the prosecution must prove the elements of that offense “beyond a reasonable doubt” against him. A reasonable doubt may arise from the evidence produced by either the prosecution or the defendant, keeping in mind that the defendant never has the burden or duty of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence. A reasonable doubt may also arise from the prosecution’s lack of evidence. A reasonable doubt is a doubt based upon reason and common sense. A reasonable doubt is the kind of doubt that would make a reasonable person hesitate to act. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt, therefore, must be proof of such a convincing character that a reasonable person would not hesitate to rely and act upon it in the more serious and important transactions of life. On the other hand, proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt.

## **INSTRUCTION NO. 8 - DEFINITION OF EVIDENCE**

Your verdict must be based only on the evidence presented in this case and these and any other instructions that may be given to you during the trial. Evidence is:

1. Testimony.
2. Exhibits that are admitted into evidence.
3. Stipulations, which are agreements between the parties.

Evidence may be “direct” or “circumstantial.” The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to direct and circumstantial evidence. The weight to be given any evidence is for you to decide.

A particular item of evidence is sometimes admitted only for a limited purpose, and not for any other purpose. I will tell you if that happens, and instruct you on the purposes for which the item can and cannot be used.

The fact that an exhibit may be shown to you does not mean that you must rely on it more than you rely on other evidence.

The following are not evidence:

1. Statements, arguments, questions, and comments by the lawyers.
2. Objections and rulings on objections.
3. Testimony that I tell you to disregard.
4. Anything that you see or hear about this case outside the courtroom.

The weight of the evidence is not determined merely by the number of witnesses testifying as to the existence or non-existence of any fact. Also, the

weight of the evidence is not determined merely by the number or volume of documents or exhibits. The weight of the evidence depends upon its quality, which means how convincing it is, and not merely upon its quantity. For example, you may choose to believe the testimony of one witness, if you find that witness to be convincing, even if a number of other witnesses contradict the witness's testimony. The quality and weight of the evidence are for you to decide.

**INSTRUCTION NO. 9 - EVIDENCE OF THE DEFENDANT'S  
PRIOR CONVICTIONS AND OTHER "BAD ACTS"**

You may also hear evidence that the defendant has previously been convicted of one or more drug offenses or that he engaged in similar, but uncharged drug activity. You may not use this evidence to decide whether the defendant carried out the acts involved in the crimes charged in the Indictment in this case. However, if you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt, on other evidence introduced, that the defendant did carry out the acts involved in the crimes charged against him in the Indictment, then you may use this evidence of his prior conviction for a drug offense or evidence that he engaged in similar, but uncharged drug activity to help you determine his intent, knowledge, motive, and lack of mistake or accident in carrying out the acts involved in the crimes charged against him in the Indictment in this case.

Remember, even if you find that the defendant may have committed a similar act in the past, this is not evidence that he committed such an act in this case. You may not convict a person simply because you believe he may have committed similar acts in the past. The defendant is on trial only for the crimes charged against him in the Indictment in this case, and you may consider the evidence of a prior conviction or prior "bad acts," if any, only on the issues of the defendant's intent, knowledge, motive, and lack of mistake or accident in carrying out the acts involved in the crimes charged in the Indictment in this case.



## **INSTRUCTION NO. 10 - CREDIBILITY AND IMPEACHMENT**

In deciding what the facts are, you may have to decide what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You may believe all of what a witness says, only part of it, or none of it.

In deciding what testimony to believe, for each witness, consider the witness's intelligence, the opportunity the witness had to see or hear the things the witness testifies about, the witness's memory, any motives the witness may have for testifying a certain way, the manner of the witness while testifying, whether the witness said something different at an earlier time, the witness's drug or alcohol use or addiction, if any, the general reasonableness of the witness's testimony, and the extent to which the witness's testimony is consistent with any evidence that you believe. In deciding whether or not to believe a witness, keep in mind that people sometimes see or hear things differently and sometimes forget things. You need to consider, therefore, whether a contradiction results from an innocent misrecollection or sincere lapse of memory, or instead from an intentional falsehood or pretended lapse of memory.

If the defendant testifies, you should judge his testimony in the same manner in which you judge the testimony of any other witness.

Ordinarily, witnesses may only testify to factual matters within their personal knowledge. However, you may hear evidence from persons described as experts. Persons may become qualified as experts in some field by knowledge, skill, training, education, or experience. Such experts may state their opinions on matters

in that field and may also state the reasons for their opinions. You should consider expert testimony just like any other testimony. You may believe all of what an expert says, only part of it, or none of it, considering the expert's qualifications, the soundness of the reasons given for the opinion, the acceptability of the methods used, any reason that the expert may be biased, and all of the other evidence in the case.

Just because a witness works in law enforcement or is employed by the government does not mean you should give more weight or credence to such a witness's testimony than you give to any other witness's testimony.

A witness may be discredited or impeached by contradictory evidence; by a showing that the witness testified falsely concerning a material matter; or by evidence that at some other time the witness said or did something, or has failed to say or do something, that is inconsistent with the witness's present testimony. If earlier statements of a witness are admitted into evidence, they will not be admitted to prove that the contents of those statements are true. Instead, you may consider those earlier statements only to determine whether you think they are consistent or inconsistent with the trial testimony of the witness and, therefore, whether they affect the credibility of that witness.

You may hear evidence that some witnesses have each been convicted of a crime. You may use that evidence only to help you decide whether or not to believe these witnesses and how much weight to give their testimony.

You should treat the testimony of certain witnesses with greater caution and care than that of other witnesses:

1. You may hear testimony from certain witnesses that they participated in the crimes charged against the defendant. Their testimony will be received in evidence and you may consider it. You may give such witnesses' testimony such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not the testimony of such witnesses may be influenced by their desire to please the government or to strike a good bargain with the government about their own situation is for you to determine.

2. You may also hear evidence that certain witnesses are testifying in the hope that the government will not file charges against them. Their testimony will be received in evidence and you may consider it. You may give such witnesses' testimony such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not such witnesses' testimony may be influenced by their hope that the government will not file charges against them is for you to determine.

3. You may hear evidence that certain witnesses used or were addicted to addictive drugs during the period of time about which they will testify. You should consider whether the testimony of these witnesses might be affected by their drug use at the time of the events about which they testify.

\* \* \*

If you believe that a witness has been discredited or impeached, it is your exclusive right to give that witness's testimony whatever weight you think it deserves.

## **INSTRUCTION NO. 11 - BENCH CONFERENCES AND RECESSES**

During the trial it may be necessary for me to talk with the lawyers out of your hearing, either by having a bench conference here while you are present in the courtroom, or by calling a recess. Please be patient, because while you are waiting, we are working. The purpose of these conferences is to decide how certain evidence is to be treated under the rules of evidence, to avoid confusion and error, and to save your valuable time. We will, of course, do what we can to keep the number and length of these conferences to a minimum.

## **INSTRUCTION NO. 12 - OBJECTIONS**

The lawyers may make objections and motions during the trial that I must rule upon. If I sustain an objection to a question before it is answered, do not draw any inferences or conclusions from the question itself. Also, the lawyers have a duty to object to testimony or other evidence that they believe is not properly admissible. Do not hold it against a lawyer or the party the lawyer represents because the lawyer has made objections.

### **INSTRUCTION NO. 13 - NOTE-TAKING**

If you want to take notes during the trial, you may, but be sure that your note-taking does not interfere with listening to and considering all the evidence. If you choose not to take notes, remember it is your own individual responsibility to listen carefully to the evidence.

Notes you take during the trial are not necessarily more reliable than your memory or another juror's memory. Therefore, you should not be overly influenced by the notes.

If you take notes, do not discuss them with anyone before you begin your deliberations. At the end of each day, please leave your notes on your chair. At the end of the trial, you may take your notes out of the notebook and keep them, or leave them, and we will destroy them. No one will read the notes, either during or after the trial.

You will notice that we have an official court reporter making a record of the trial. However, we will not have typewritten transcripts of this record available for your use in reaching your verdict.

## INSTRUCTION NO. 14 - CONDUCT OF THE JURY DURING TRIAL

You must decide this case based *solely* on the evidence presented in court, in light of your own observations, experiences, reason, common sense, and the law as I have explained it in my Instructions. Therefore, to insure fairness, you, as jurors, must obey the following rules:

*First*, do not talk among yourselves about this case, or about anyone involved with it, until the end of the case when you go to the jury room to decide on your verdict.

*Second*, do not talk with anyone else about this case or about anyone involved with it until the trial has ended and you have been discharged as jurors.

*Third*, when you are outside the courtroom, do not let anyone tell you anything about the case, or about anyone involved with it, or about any news story, rumor, or gossip about this case, or ask you about your participation in this case until the trial has ended and your verdict has been accepted by me. If someone should try to talk to you about the case during the trial, please report it to me.

*Fourth*, during the trial, you should not talk with or speak to any of the parties, lawyers, or witnesses involved in this case—you should not even pass the time of day with any of them. It is important that you not only do justice in this case, but that you also give the appearance of doing justice. If a person from one side of the case sees you talking to a person from the other side—even if it is simply to pass the time of day—an unwarranted and unnecessary suspicion about your

fairness might be aroused. If any lawyer, party, or witness does not speak to you when you pass in the hall, ride the elevator or the like, it is because they are not supposed to talk or visit with you.

*Fifth*, do not read any news stories or articles about the case, or about anyone involved with it, or listen to any radio or television reports about the case or about anyone involved with it, or let anyone tell you anything about any such news reports. If you want, you can have your spouse or a friend clip out any stories and set them aside to give you after the trial is over. I can assure you, however, that by the time you have heard the evidence in this case you will know more about the matter than anyone will learn through the news media.

*Sixth*, do not do any research—on the Internet, in libraries, in the newspapers, or in any other way—or make any investigation *about this case* on your own.

*Seventh*, do not make up your mind during the trial about what the verdict should be. Do not discuss this case with anyone, not even with other jurors, until I send you to the jury room for deliberations after closing arguments. Keep an open mind until after you have gone to the jury room to decide the case and you and your fellow jurors have discussed the evidence.

*Eighth*, if at anytime during the trial you have a problem that you would like to bring to my attention, or if you feel ill or need to go to the restroom, please send a note to the Court Security Officer, who will deliver it to me. I want you to be comfortable, so please do not hesitate to inform me of any problem.



## INSTRUCTION NO. 15 - DUTY TO DELIBERATE

A verdict must represent the considered judgment of each juror. *Your verdict on each charge against the defendant must be unanimous.* It is your duty to consult with one another and to deliberate with a view to reaching agreement if you can do so without violence to your individual judgment. Of course, you must not surrender your honest convictions as to the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the opinions of other jurors or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict. Each of you must decide the case for yourself; but you should do so only after consideration of the evidence with your fellow jurors.

In the course of your deliberations you should not hesitate to re-examine your own views, and to change your opinion if you are convinced that it is wrong. To bring twelve minds to an unanimous result, you must examine the questions submitted to you openly and frankly, with proper regard for the opinions of others and with a willingness to re-examine your own views.

Remember that if, in your individual judgment, the evidence fails to establish the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt on an offense charged against him, then he should have your vote for a not guilty verdict on that offense. If all of you reach the same conclusion, then the verdict of the jury must be not guilty for the defendant on that offense. Of course, the opposite also applies. If, in your individual judgment, the evidence establishes the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt on an offense, then your vote should be for a verdict of guilty against the defendant on that charge, and if all of you reach that conclusion, then the

verdict of the jury must be guilty for the defendant on that offense. As I instructed you earlier, the burden is upon the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt every essential element of an offense charged against the defendant, and if the prosecution fails to do so, you cannot find the defendant guilty of that offense.

Remember, also, that the question before you can never be whether the government wins or loses the case. The government, as well as society, always wins, regardless of whether your verdict is not guilty or guilty, when justice is done.

Finally, remember that you are not partisans; you are judges—judges of the facts. Your sole interest is to seek the truth from the evidence. You are the judges of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight of the evidence.

You may conduct your deliberations as you choose. However, I suggest that you carefully consider all of the evidence bearing upon the questions before you. You may take all the time that you feel is necessary.

There is no reason to think that another trial would be tried in a better way or that a more conscientious, impartial, or competent jury would be selected to hear it. Any future jury must be selected in the same manner and from the same source as you. If you should fail to agree on a verdict, the case is left open and must be disposed of at some later time.

## INSTRUCTION NO. 16 - DUTY DURING DELIBERATIONS

There are certain rules you must follow while conducting your deliberations and returning your verdict:

*First*, when you go to the jury room, you must select one of your members as your foreperson. That person will preside over your discussions and speak for you here in court.

*Second*, if the defendant is guilty of a charged offense, then the sentence to be imposed is my responsibility. You may not consider punishment of the defendant in any way in deciding whether the prosecution has proved its case against him beyond a reasonable doubt.

*Third*, if you need to communicate with me during your deliberations, you may send a note to me through the Court Security Officer, signed by one or more jurors. I will respond as soon as possible, either in writing or orally in open court. *Remember that you should not tell anyone—including me—how your votes stand numerically.*

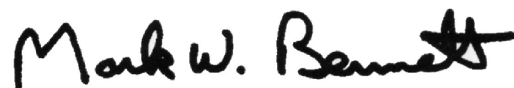
*Fourth*, your verdict must be based solely on the evidence and on the law in these instructions. Nothing I have said or done is intended to suggest what your verdict should be—that is entirely for you to decide.

*Fifth*, in your consideration of whether the defendant is not guilty or guilty of an offense charged against him, you must not consider his race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex. You are not to return a verdict for or against the defendant on any charge unless you would return the same verdict on that charge

without regard to the defendant's race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex. To emphasize the importance of this consideration, the verdict form contains a certification statement. Each of you should carefully read the statement, then sign your name in the appropriate place in the signature block, if the statement accurately reflects the manner in which each of you reached your decision.

*Finally*, I am giving you the verdict form. A verdict form is simply the written notice of the decision that you reach in this case. You will take the verdict form to the jury room. You must return a separate, unanimous verdict on each charge against the defendant. When you have reached a unanimous verdict, your foreperson must complete one copy of the verdict form and all of you must sign that copy to record your individual agreement with the verdict and to show that it is unanimous. The foreperson must bring the signed verdict form to the courtroom when it is time to announce your verdict. When you have reached a verdict, the foreperson will advise the Court Security Officer that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

**DATED** this 4th day of June, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark W. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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MARK W. BENNETT  
U. S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TODD BECKER,

Defendant.

No. CR 06-3022-MWB

**VERDICT FORM**

As to defendant Todd Becker, we, the Jury, unanimously find as follows:

<b>COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY</b>		<b>VERDICT</b>
<b>Step 1: Verdict</b>	On the “conspiracy” offense, as charged in <b>Count 1</b> of the Indictment and explained in Instruction No. 3, please mark your verdict.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Guilty <input type="checkbox"/> Guilty
<b>Step 2:</b>	<i>If you found the defendant “guilty” of the offense charged in <b>Count 1</b>, please indicate (a) the objective or objectives of the conspiracy, and (b) the quantity of any controlled substance involved in the conspiracy for which the defendant can be held responsible. (Quantity of controlled substances is explained in Instruction No. 5.)</i>	
<b>(a) Objective(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Distributing actual (pure) methamphetamine	<input type="checkbox"/> Distributing a methamphetamine mixture
<b>(b) Quantity of controlled substances</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 grams or more <input type="checkbox"/> less than 5 grams	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 grams or more <input type="checkbox"/> 50 grams or more, but less than 500 <input type="checkbox"/> less than 50 grams

COUNT 2: POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE		VERDICT
<b>Step 1:</b> Verdict	On the “possession with intent to distribute” offense charged in <b>Count 2</b> of the Indictment and explained in Instruction No. 4, please mark your verdict.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Guilty <input type="checkbox"/> Guilty
<b>Step 2:</b> Quantity of controlled substances	If you found the defendant guilty of this offense, please indicate the quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine contained in the methamphetamine mixture that the defendant is responsible for possessing with intent to distribute. ( <i>Quantity of controlled substances is explained in Instruction No. 5.</i> )	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 grams or more of actual (pure) methamphetamine	<input type="checkbox"/> less than 5 grams of actual (pure) methamphetamine
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>		
By signing below, each juror certifies that consideration of the race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex of the defendant was not involved in reaching his or her individual decision, and that the individual juror would have returned the same verdict for or against the defendant on the charged offense regardless of the race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex of the defendant.		

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Date

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Foreperson

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Juror

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